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13 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Personnel Who Contributed to the  
 Collection of Ideas in Response to the  
 Request of December 20

The response to the request for ideas "to improve the posture of the U. S. vis-a-vis the USSR and the Soviet bloc" was astonishing. Something in the neighborhood of four to five thousand ideas were contributed and some are still arriving.

Several preliminary screenings were made by an ad hoc committee of senior officers in CIA, in order to reduce the list to manageable proportions. Certain criteria were established under which a number of ideas were set aside, at least for the time being. Among these were:

- a. Ideas that had already been overtaken by events. (In some cases the proposal had actually been carried out in the same, or a similar, way to that suggested--or was known to be in process.)
- b. Proposals for actions that would involve basic shifts in policy which are already being considered at the highest policy-making levels of the Government. (In many cases these ideas represented profound thought and understanding of the situation; however if nothing new was added to considerations known to be under serious study they were screened out. In some cases, new "twists" which seemed to have value were suggested, and these were passed on.)
- c. Suggestions of purely internal Agency, or U. S. Government, or domestic U. S. , interest. (Many of these had real merit but did not seem truly responsive to the request for "improving the posture...")

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Some might profitably be submitted by the originators through the regular Agency Suggestion System.)

d. A large number of suggestions had to do with the development of spectacular scientific devices or effects. Some of these were concisely documented as to practicality; most were not. All in this category were referred to research and development experts, who have selected 25 or 30 as being worth detailed investigation for feasibility.

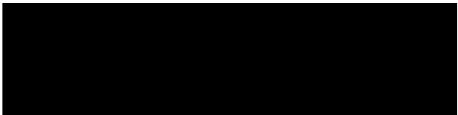
The ideas which survived this process were then screened again. Many of the better ideas had been suggested by a number of different people, with only minor differences of substance or approach; in these cases, one representative sample was chosen for further consideration. Out of this screening emerged about fifty ideas. These were presented by the DCI to a special meeting of the Operations Coordinating Board, and were referred by them to a special high-level Committee of the Board, under the Chairmanship of the Special Assistant to the President for Security Operations Coordination.

The latter committee has been considering the ideas one by one. Several have been re-referred to the Board itself and have been discussed there; others have been sent to committees or working groups under the OCB for further consideration and staffing.

I think it fair to say that the response by members of this Agency was far and away the best of any of the components of the OCB--both in quantity and in quality. The efforts of everyone who participated were very much appreciated at all levels.

This exercise was carried out in response to a one-time "crash request." However, good ideas are always welcome and all personnel are encouraged to submit them at any time, through the same channels as before.

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Operations Coordinating Board Assistant

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